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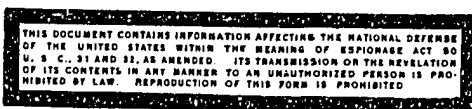
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SOURCE Aussenhandels Nachrichten

RUMANIAN TEXTILE AND FOOTWEAR PRODUCTION EXPANSION

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Rumanian textile production has expanded continuously since nationalization. The basic commodity in textile production has been cotton. In the past, the industry was highly dependent on imports. In 1938, for example, 43 percent of the country's total requirement for cotton fiber was imported from other countries. A large part of this was already spun, although the possibility existed of developing the domestic spinning industry. (1, 2) At present, the Rumanian textile industry receives part of its raw material and equipment from domestic sources. Looms, wool-carding machines, rough-surfacing machines, knitting needles, spinning machines, and cotton gins are being produced in Rumania. In addition to receiving Soviet cotton on favorable terms, Rumania also receives selected cotton seed and the benefit of Soviet advice in new methods. The source said that it is expected that, as a result, the entire need will be met by domestic production. (1)

Following nationalization, a rapid development of the entire textile industry began. Taking 1948 as 100, cotton production in 1950 was 176, and in 1951 it was 213; wool production in 1950 was 187, and in 1951, 215. Large textile mills were constructed in Iasi and Botosani, and the largest ready-to-wear plant in the country, the Gheorghiu-Dej Textile Mill in Bucharest, was put in operation. (2) In areas which formerly had no industry, these new plants have helped to develop economic activity. (1) Most existing factories were expanded and modernized. (3)

With increased production, the consumption of textiles also increased. In 1951, 24.8 percent more textiles were manufactured than in 1950. (4) Consumers purchased 24 percent more cotton cloth, 82 percent more woolen cloth, and 12 percent more silk cloth in 1950 than in 1949. They purchased 18.3 percent more cotton goods and 20.2 percent more woollens in 1951 than in 1950. (3)

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Variety in men's wear increased 80 percent, and in women's wear, 125 percent. Large selections in men's suits, ladies' dresses, overcoats, and other items were placed on the market.(4)

Production of shoes and leather goods has also increased. In 1951, 16 percent more shoes were produced than in 1950. In 1952, this is to increase another 30 percent.(2) According to source (5,) shoe production was 20 percent greater in 1951 than in 1950 and 1950 production was 24.8 percent above that of 1949. Shoe prices were cut 5-15 percent in 1952.(5)

To meet the need for trained personnel, the Ministry of Light Industry has developed technical instruction at all levels in institutes and numerous intermediate textile schools. Highly qualified personnel will be trained at an advanced textile technical school.

To solve textile problems, the Ministry of Light Industry established an Institute for Textile, Leather, and Rubber Research in 1951. The institute deals with technical and economic production problems. A division for the development of models and patterns promotes inventions and innovations by workers and technicians.(1)

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SOURCES

1. Berlin, Aussenhandels Nachrichten, 21 Jun 52
2. Ibid., 11 Jun 52
3. Ibid., 27 Feb 52
4. Ibid., 19 Jan 52
5. Ibid., 23 Feb 52

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